

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01026 300814Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 281620Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 977

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, UR, GW

SUBJECT: BERLIN LEADERS REJECT CONTINUING GDR-SOVIET
ATTACKS ON BERLIN-BONN TIES

REF: A. USBERLIN 1006

B. MOSCOW 7181

C. BERLIN 5742

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN LEADERS AND COMMENTATORS HAVE
REACTED SHARPLY TO BARRAGE OF COMMENT IN NEUS DEUTSCHLAND
MAY 24-26 COMBINING SUPPORT FOR SOVIET POSITION IN RECENT
UN NOTE THAT EAST BERLIN IS FULLY INTEGRATED PART OF GDR,
ATTACKS AGAINST FONMIN GENSCHER'S VISIT TO BERLIN IN
COMPANY OF SECRETARY, AND PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST
GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ FOR HIS POSITIONS ON THESE
ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. UNUSUALLY HEAVY COMMENTARY MONOPOLIZED NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND (ND) EDITORIAL COLUMNS MAY 24-26 (FULL
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PAGE 02 USBERL 01026 300814Z

REPORT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM FROM EMBASSY BERLIN). COMING

IN WAKE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT, WHICH ND CAREFULLY AVOIDED CRITICIZING, ARTICLES HAVE GIVEN RISE TO MUCH LOCAL SPECULATION AS TO SOVIET/GDR MOTIVES. ND EDITORIAL IN MAY 24 EDITION CHIDED GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ FOR FAILING TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT STRICT OBSERVATION OF WA WAS NECESSARY TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN CALM ATMOSPHERE IN WEST BERLIN. ND ALSO WARNED BONN REGARDING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD WEST BERLIN THAT ONLY THROUGH "CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE" ON ALL SIDES COULD QA BE REALIZED IN SPIRIT AND LETTER. IN ADDITION, ND REPRINTED LONG SIDOROV RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY, WHICH, PICKING UP THEME OF SOVIET DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK NOTE IN UN, NOTED, INTER ALIA, THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS PERIOD AFTER WAR WHEN ALL OF BERLIN WAS ADMINISTERED BY FOUR POWERS ON BASIS OF AGREEMENT, THIS FOUR-POWER ADMINISTRATION WAS EFFECTIVELY DISSOLVED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO BY ACTION OF ALLIES. "BERLIN IS AND REMAINS AS IT HAS BEEN FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS CAPITAL OF GDR." SIDOROV ASKED GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ IF HE WAS TRYING THROUGH HIS "STUBBORN ATTITUDE" TO RETURN TO COLD WAR.

3. IN TV APPEARANCE RESPONDING TO EASTERN CRITICISM, SCHUETZ EVENING OF MAY 24, HAVING PRAISED SECRETARY'S VISIT AS SIGNIFYING SOLID US SUPPORT FOR BERLIN, SAID UNDERSTANDABLE ACCOMPANIMENT OF SECRETARY BY FRG FONMIN SIGNIFIED THAT WHOEVER ATTACKED FREE BERLIN AND ITS INTERESTS ALSO ATTACKED LEADING WESTERN POWERS, AND WHOEVER TRIED TO DIVIDE BERLIN, WESTERN PROTECTIVE POWERS AND FRG COMMITTED DANGEROUS MISTAKE.

4. ND OF MAY 26 CARRIED REPRINT OF PRAVADA COMMENTARY AS WELL AS ARTICLE BY IZVESTIA WEST BERLIN CORRESPONDENT IVANOV COMMENTING ON CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN PLEDGES BY SCHUETZ AND BONN LEADERS FAITHFULLY TO UPHOLD QA AND ACTIONS SUCH AS GENSCHER VISIT.

5. RETURNING TO FRAY, SCHUETZ REMINDED RADIO LISTENERS MAY 25 ALL QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND STATUS WITH RESPECT TO WEST BERLIN WERE RESPONSIBILITY OF THREE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01026 300814Z

WESTERN ALLIES. THIS ALSO APPLIED TO WEST BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION ABROAD BY FRG. SCHUETZ DENIED ILLEGAL STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WEST BERLIN BELONGED TO FRG. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EAST HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS ILLEGAL ACTS SUCH AS MILITARY PARADES IN EAST BERLIN. SCHUETZ SAID THAT COMMUNIST CRITICISM OF GENSCHER'S VISIT WAS ABSURD AND LAUGHABLE AND THAT IN FUTURE CHANCELLOR,

LIKE FONMIN, COULD VISIT BERLIN ANY TIME ON ANY OCCASION.

6. SENAT CHANELLE CHIEF HERZ MAY 27

COMMENTED TO MISOFF THAT SHARP ATTACKS ON BERLIN-BONN
TIES BY SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS MUST BE EXPECTED FROM
TIME TO TIME, PARTICULARLY WHEN, AS IN GENSCHER VISIT
OR RECENT ALLIED REPLY IN UN ON DEMOGRAPHIC YEAR BOOK,
EASTERN POSITION APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED
PUBLICLY. HERZ THOUGHT SUCH ATTACKS SHOULD BE TAKEN
SERIOUSLY, PARTICULARLY IF, AS HE SUSPECTED IN RECENT
EXCHANGES, THEY MIGHT PROVIDE PRETEXT FOR SOVIET
REQUEST FOR FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS. HERZ ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE SOVIET-EAST GERMAN
ATTACKS REALLY AMOUNTED TO WORSENING OF POLITICAL
CLIMATE. HE ALSO FELT THAT BERLIN CDU CALL AT PARTY
MEETING ON MAY 23 FOR TERMINATION OF CSCE BECAUSE OF
RECENT SOVIET ACTIONS ON BERLIN WAS PURELY POLITICAL
EXERCISE ON PART OF LOCAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO WHICH
FEW WOULD PAY NOTICE.

7. ND, AS IS ITS STYLE, ABRUPTLY TURNED OFF ITS FIRE
ON MAY 26 AND ATTACKS HAVE NOT BEEN RENEWED. THIS,
OF COURSE, LEAVES COMMENTATORS SPECULATING AS TO
MOTIVES. IN ADDITION TO THOUGHTS VOICED BY HERZ, IT
IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE MOTIVE WAS TO REINSTALL IN BERLINERS'
MINDS SOME OF UNCERTAINTY THAT HAD BEEN DISPELLED BY
SECRETARY'S FIRM STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT
DURING HIS VISIT. IF SO, EASTERN TACTICIANS MAY HAVE
HAD SOME SUCCESS. WELT AM SONNTAG NOTED THAT DESPITE
SECRETARY'S OPTIMISTIC VIEW THAT BERLIN WAS ENJOYING
GREATER SECURITY THAN AT ANY TIME IN PAST THIRTY YEARS,
THREAT REMAINED, "FOR THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER ABANDONED
THEIR GOAL OF SEIZING THE ENTIRE CITY. TO THEM THE
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PAGE 04 USBERL 01026 300814Z

QA WAS AND IS ONLY A MEANS TO ACHIEVE AN END." DIE WELT
MAY 27 SAID TIMING OF NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST BERLIN WAS
PUZZLING BECAUSE SOVIETS WERE ANXIOUS FOR CSCE SUMMIT.
INDEPENDENT TAGESSPIEGEL SUGGESTED THAT RADIO MOSCOW
COMMENTARY PUBLISHED IN ND PROVIDED CLUE TO PURPOSE OF
EARLIER UN NOTE. CHIEF EDITORIAL WRITER BOELKE SAID
SOVIETS WISHED TO ADVANCE VIEW THAT THERE WERE NEVER
ANY ORIGINAL RIGHTS FOR WESTERN POWERS IN BERLIN, ONLY
WESTERN PRESENCE BASED ON AGREEMENTS WITH SOVIET UNION.
ONCE SOVIETS HAD BILED THIS DOWN TO HINGING EVERYTHING
ON QA, THEY WOULD BE IN POSITION TO INSIST ON THEIR
UNILATERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT, LEST
WESTERN POWERS WISHED TO JEOPARDIZE THEIR BERLIN
PRESENCE THROUGH QA'S COLLAPSE: "ACCORDINGLY, SOVIET
EXPLANATIONS MUST BE TAKEN MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY THAN

PROTEST AGAINST PRESENCE OF FEDERAL MINISTERS IN BERLIN."GEORGE

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